

LT. GOVERNOR JOHN GARAMENDI TOUTS BIO-TECHNOLOGY AS KEY TO STATE'S ECONOMIC FUTURE DURING WEDNESDAY MEETINGS AT PROMINENT SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO BIO SCIENCE FACILITIES

As the chair of the Commission for Economic Development and as a University of California Regent, Garamendi focuses on efforts to combine university research with real world applications to foster economic growth.

SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO - Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi announced Wednesday that he will recommend the creation of a state advisory committee on biotechnology to help support and spur the growth of California's economy. Garamendi, as chair of the newly revitalized Commission for Economic Development (CED), will recommend the action to his fellow CED Commissioners.

The announcement on Wednesday preceded the Lt. Governor's tours of two biotech facilities, Poniard Pharmaceuticals, Inc., and Cell Genesys, Inc. The event is part of his campaign to stoke the economy with sustainable growth initiatives developed within the CED.

"Biotechnology represents an incredible growth opportunity for California's economy," said Lt. Governor Garamendi. "The innovations of these companies, as well as others, will play an invaluable role in the creation of a sustainable growth economy that creates jobs and helps protect our natural resources."

Prior to the tour, Garamendi met with executives from the biotech companies as well as with representatives from Bay Bio, which is a non-profit life science association with over 350 members. Poniard Pharmaceuticals researches and develops various products for the treatment of cancer. Cell Genesys focuses on the development and commercialization of cancer vaccines and gene therapies to treat various cancers.

California is the birthplace of the biotech industry and home to one-third of all biotech firms in the United States. As a University of California Regent, Garamendi supports the innovations and \$500 million in research funding that the higher education system has committed to promote the development of such biotechnologies.

###

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 1, 2007

Contact: Norman D. Williams
Office: 916 / 445-8994